



Loch Internationals 2011



Spring International 2011 Loch of Harray 10th June 2011

Scottish Team sponsored by Lake of Menteith Fisheries, Pentland Ferries, Fishers, BVG Airflow, Edmundson Electrical, Flyfish Europe, WFFC2009, Modus Building Services, 7plus7 Construction and Thrums Engineering Services.

Scotland chose to take the 2011 Spring International to the Loch of Harray and all four countries had a tremendous weeks' fishing there. Scotland and Wales appeared to have arrived at similar conclusions after the practice days but on the competition day it was Wales that came out on top to take the Gold Medal. Scotland had to settle for silver with Ireland taking the bronze and England the wooden spoon. Aled Dixon of Wales took the Brown Bowl with an outstanding bag of 18 trout only one ahead of his countryman Anthony Cartwright. These two were five clear of everyone else.

The Orkney Trout Fishing Association pulled out all the stops to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to appreciate the quality of the Harray trout and it was only with their help that the competitors were able to gain an understanding of the water. Harray has numerous skerries situated in many areas of the loch and while they usually hold fish they are a safety hazard for those that are unaware of their locations. Local knowledge is essential and the members of OTFA gave up their time to act as boatmen and provided their boats throughout the week. The OTFA Committee and their members have considerable competition experience and did an excellent job of organising the facilities both on and off the water. It must have taken a considerable amount of work to organise the boats and reorganise the Association site and all four countries are indebted to all involved for making it such a memorable week.

The match was fished on a partial catch and release basis with competitors retaining their first six fish and thereafter recording and returning all eligible ones. The minimum size for the trout was set at 11 inches with 12 ounces being awarded for returned fish. At the start of the day the boats set off in various directions as they made for the areas that had been identified in the practice days as holding fish. It was apparent that trout had been found in numbers in many parts of the loch as boats went south to Kirk Bay, straight over to Stoneyhill, the clayface and Ballarat, slightly up the loch to Bochan and north to Tenston and Bankhead.

The Scottish rods had been seen to be doing really well in the first half of the day however in the second half it was the Welsh rods that were seen to be constantly bending into fish. The deeper water looked the place to be. As the competitors came back in at 6pm a quick tally by the team managers before the weigh-in identified that the afternoon had done it for Wales putting them 13 fish clear of Scotland. At the weigh-in it was announced that the Gold had gone to Wales with 126 trout for 97lb 4.5oz. Silver went to Scotland with 113 trout for 87lb 0.25oz. Bronze went to Ireland with 81 trout for 62lb and England collected the wooden spoon with 63 trout for 46lb 6.5oz.

The winner of the Brown Bowl and top rod for Wales was Aled Dixon with 18 trout for 13lb 6.25oz. Top rod for England was Andy Croucher with 9 trout for 6lb 4.5oz. Arden Pollock was the top rod for Ireland with 11 trout for 9lb 7.75oz. Arden also had the heaviest fish which went to the scales at 1lb 11.75oz. Nigel Burns was the top Scottish rod with 12 trout for 9lb 1.25oz

This was a great team effort by Wales led by two outstanding performances by Aled Dixon and Anthony Cartwright. Once again the Scottish team put in a superb team effort with all 14 team members finishing in the top 38.

Nigel Burns had the honour of partnering Aled Dixon on competition day. Aled won the toss and after they had discussed where they wanted to go throughout the day Aled opted to start at Kirk Bay. Nigel started off on a DI7 and picked up 4 fish in the first 30 minutes and following a quiet spell picked up another fish to put him on five with Aled still clean. Aled changed to a 7 sweep and started picking up fish and as they drifted back and forth over the area and went from 5 to nil down to 10 to 5 up. Apart from a triple header of keepers for Aled it was fish for fish after that and it finished with Aled on 18 and Nigel on 12. Nigel's best flies were Erlend's Cat, Merky Maid and the Tugboat Hedgehog.



Peter Auchterlonie partnered Andy Haskins of England and after winning the toss he opted to go to the golden triangle. Peter was on a DI7 and went two down to Andy who was on a DI5. At noon, Andy opted to move to Nistaben. Peter changed to a 3 sweep and picked up a fish there. They moved down to Ballarat where Peter picked up another one. A change to a DI7 and a move back to Nistaben saw Peter pick up another 3 and at 5pm had a triple header with 2 of them keepers. At the end of the day Peter had 11 fish to Andy's 7. His best flies were Erlend's Cat and a peach muddler.



John Buchanan partnered David Wortley of England and lost the toss. Following discussions on where to go David opted to be advised by their boatman, Jim Harcus, and they headed for Hutch's buoy at Stoneyhill. John fished a DI7 and picked one up and dropped one in the first 20 minutes. They found it slow and tried round Ned's Island and Bochan but as nothing was doing there they went over to Ballarat where they drifted from the shallows over the deeper water. John picked up fish there including a double header and had 7 in the boat by 1pm. At 2 o'clock David opted to go back to Hutch's buoy where they had an unproductive two hours. They moved over to the front of Bochan Farm where John picked up his eighth. His 9th and final fish was picked up at six minutes to six drifting to the harbour. Erlend's Cat was his best fly. David finished with one fish.





Kevin Porteous partnered Pat Hoare of Ireland and lost the toss. They agreed that the deeper water was the place to be and Pat opted to go to the Sword and drift out from there. Kevin was on a 5 sweep and they both picked up fish there and started to average about one fish each per drift. The wind dropped and it slowed so they moved down to the clayface about 1pm. Kevin had two triple headers with only one keeper and by 2pm had 7 fish. He struggled during the last four hours but picked up a further 2 fish to put him on 9. Kevin's best fly was Erlend's Cat. Pat boated 11 fish and was the second top Irish rod.

	Country	Fish	Lbs	Ozs
1 st	Wales	126	97	4.50
2 nd	Scotland	113	87	0.25
3rd	Ireland	81	62	0.00
4th	England	63	46	6.50

Individual Results - Scotland				
	Club	Fish	Lbs	Ozs
Nigel Burns	Crieff FF	12	9	1.25
Peter Auchterlonie	St Fillans & Lochearn AC	11	7	13.50
John Buchanan	Newton Mearns FF	10	7	13.00
Stephen Leask	Neilston FF	10	7	1.50
Kevin Porteous	Dounreay AC	9	6	12.25
Alan Porteous	Dounreay AC	9	6	8.00
Jock Kettles	Change FF	9	6	4.50
Jock Craig	Brechin AC	6	5	14.00
Allan Smith	Stormontfield AC	7	5	11.25
Ronnie Gilbert	St Fillans & Lochearn AC	7	5	7.50
Fraser Robertson	Canmore AC Forfar	6	5	0.00
David McAllister	Port Glasgow AC	7	4	15.50
Willie Simpson (captain)	Roths Oak AC	5	4	11.25
Davie McMillan	GFFC	5	3	14.75
	Total	113	87	0.25



Autumn International Grafham 23rd September 2011

England got their tactics spot on at the Autumn International at Grafham and were rewarded with a wide margin win over Scotland with Wales in third and Ireland fourth. This was an impressive display by England with their top three rods of Iain Barr, Nikki Long and Ed Foster accounting for 41 of their 106 trout. Half of the England team finished in the top 14 of the 56 anglers. This was a far cry from a poor England performance at the Spring International where half of their team were in the last ten and they picked up the wooden spoon.

Scotland put in another sound performance with 76 fish which was 14 ahead of third placed Wales. Half of the Scottish team were in the top 17 with the top three rods of Kevin McCabe (Change FF AC), Steven Welsh (Dalbeattie AC) and Ewan Clark (Strathtyrum AC) taking 27 trout. Scotland have now had 3 gold and 2 silver medals from the last 5 Home Internationals and will be looking forward to 2012.

The outstanding performance of the day came from David Hoppe of Wales who had 18 trout for 39lbs 10.375ozs which earned him the Brown Bowl for the best basket. David fished with Steven Graham (Perth RASC) of Scotland who had 8 trout and their haul of 26 fish was the top boat.

Top rod for England was Iain Barr with 16 fish for 37lbs 6.25ozs. Top for Ireland was Derek O'Brien with 4 fish for 11lbs 6.375ozs and top for Scotland was Kevin McCabe with 9 fish for 21lbs 8.75ozs.

Grafham fished well all week and the quality and strength of their trout must make this fishery one of the best in the country. Many areas had been found to be holding good numbers of trout which responded to various methods throughout the week.

	Country	Fish	Lbs	Ozs
1st	England	105	229	6 5/8
2nd	Scotland	76	168	8 3/8
3rd	Wales	62	137	8 5/8
4th	Ireland	34	79	13 1/8



Kevin McCabe
 (Phoenix Silver Salver winner - Scotland's top rod)
 5th

I was paired with Tom Davis (England) and before we started we discussed where we wanted to go and agreed on the areas to be covered. We started at G buoy and Tom picked up 1 there. From there we went to the Exhibition Centre and drifted in and out there for the rest of the day. I took my fish on diawl bachs on a midge tip line and finished up with 9 to Tom's 8

Steven Welsh
 7th

I was paired with Dai Jones (Wales) and when we got to the boat we talked about the areas that we thought would be holding fish and decided where we would go. We started at N buoy at the dam where Dai got 1 early on and I dropped 1. I picked up 1 there then he went 2 to 1 up. I picked up 2 rapid after that. We moved from N buoy to Sludge Bank where I missed 1. From there we went to the Willows where I got 2 straight away. When there wasn't much doing at the Willows we went back to the dam where I missed 1 and dropped 1. Then we went back to the Willows and I picked up 2 rapid. We finished off back at N buoy where Dai picked up 1 and I missed 1. Dai finished up with 3 and I had 9.





Ewan Clark

I was drawn on the day with Irishman Andrew Lloyd, a full-time guide on Corrib & Mask. He said to me on the day just to go wherever I wanted as he had been struggling on practice days.

For the first hour we headed up to sludge bank where I had been getting fish the day before. However, once we were up there it was quite sheltered and calm and the boat was practically static so we weren't covering much ground but still managed to boat one on di3 and sunburst booby.

We noticed that there were about 20 boats off the dam and decided to head up there. Once we got there I spoke to fellow team mates who were on 3 and 4 fish apiece and they all said that the fish were high in the water, catching on sunburst fab and diawl bachs. I put those flies on a midge tip and hit fish steadily, off the dam and also marlow bank, ending up with 9 for the day. My partner also changed to a similar set-up and he ended up with 3 fish for the day.

I finished in 8th place overall and 3rd in the Scottish team which earned me a carry forward to a place in the team next year.



Jock Kettles 9th

I was paired with Fechin McMorow (Ireland) and after I lost the toss we agreed to start at N buoy. I picked up fish there on the first two drifts on a mid glass. We spent the morning in that area and moved over to the Willows and G buoy in the afternoon. I picked up another 3 fish there on diawl bachs on a midge tip. At the end of the day I had 7 and Fechan had 3.



Steven Graham 12th

I was paired with David Hoppe (Wales) who was the Brown Bowl winner with 18 fish. Like most of the others we discussed the areas that had held fish on the practice days and agreed where we would go. At the off we went straight down to the tower at the dam where we both picked up fish on midge tips. We could see fish getting caught over at D buoy so we went over there and picked up another 2. From there we went to the Exhibition Centre and drifted in and out there for the rest of the day picking up fish on diawl bachs and fabs.

David was having a great day and deserved to win the Brown Bowl. Although I matched his methods I couldn't keep up with him and finished up with 8 fish.

Scottish Team Result

Position		Club	Fish	Lbs	Ozs
5th	Kevin McCabe	Change FF AC	9	21	8.750
7th	Steven Welsh	Dalbeattie AC	9	18	15.625
8th	Ewan Clark	Straththyrum AC	9	17	15.375
9th	Jock Kettles	Change FF AC	7	17	8.375
12th	Steven Graham	Perth RASC	8	15	12.125
15th	Ronnie Gilbert	St Fillans & Lochearn AA	6	14	4.625
17th	Neill Barrett	Gilmerton Miners FFC	6	13	13.875
30th	Andy McKay	Port Glasgow AC	4	8	3.000
31st	Graham Connelly	Kahts Whiskers AC	4	8	1.500
32nd	Gordon Hayward	Balfron Piscatorials	4	7	13.625
33rd	Agnes Thomas	Bank of Scotland East AC	3	7	10.750
38th	George Martin	Port Glasgow AC	2	6	7.375
41st	Peter Auchterlonie	St Fillans & Lochearn AA	3	5	3.625
43rd	Ian Storrar	Balbeggie AC	2	5	1.750



Row: John Kaye(IFFA President) Andy McKay Gordon Hayward Steven Welsh Jock Kettles Peter Auchterlonie Ian Storrar Stephen Graham
 John Ross(Manager) Ian Campbell(IFFA Secretary)
 Front Row: Agnes Thomas Ewan Clark Graham Connelly Ronnie Gilbert(Captain) Kevin McCabe Neill Barrett and George Martin

